AN

ATTEMPT

Towards a CHARACTER of the late

Mr. John Mucklow, *&c.*

(Price Six Pence.)

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ATTEMPT

TOWARDS A

CHARACTER

OF THE LATE

Mr. JOHN MUCKLOW,

Who DIED the 24th of APRIL, 1753.

The Path of the Juſt is as the ſhining Light.
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MUSEUM

TO THE

READER.

THE following attempt towards a character of the worthy and exemplary perſon deſcribed, was intended only for the peruſal, in manuſcript, of a few of the deceaſed's moſt intimate friends; but theſe, and ſome others, who happened to ſee it, being of opinion that it might be of further ſervice, and not unacceptable to the public, the printing it was therefore conſented to.

IT is certain, that the incidents of a private man's life, are ſeldom ſuffici-

ently conſiderable, or intereſting, to afford entertainment for the generality of readers: very few particulars therefore of that kind, relating to this gentleman, are here mentioned, (tho' many might have been, much to his honour) but ſuch as were thought neceſſary to diſtinguiſh and mark his character.

WHEN men are pleaſed with examples of virtue, if they are not already virtuous, they ſeem to have made one ſtep, at leaſt, towards becoming ſo; for thoſe perſons or actions, which we approve and are delighted with, are very apt to excite in us a deſire of imitation: as this deſire of imitation was one of the chief motives, reſpecting himſelf, that induced the perſon, who drew the following character, to attempt it, ſo he would receive no ſmall pleaſure, if others, in the

the peruſal, ſhould partake with him of the ſame benefit. — The principal end of recording the virtues of the dead is, that the living may profit by them: For the virtuous man, tho' dead, yet ſpeaketh, and with energy too.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A N

A T T E M P T

Towards a CHARACTER of the late

Mr. John Mucklow, *&c.*

IT is uſual and natural for moſt men, when death hath deprived them of an intimate and valuable friend, to receive pleaſure from reviving in their memories an idea of his countenance; but to commemorate his virtues muſt be ſtill more pleaſing and profitable. I am deſirous therefore

therefore to preſerve a remembrance of my amiable friend's perſon, but much more deſirous of preſerving a picture of his mind.

THIS gentleman was of a middling ſtature, and very well proportioned; his countenance manly, ſagacious and benevolent; his deportment eaſy, genteel and graceful; his habit plain and neat.

HIS conſtitution, which was firm and ſtrong, not injured by intemperance of any kind, and managed by him with great skill and care, gave, 'till the latter part of his life, reaſonable grounds to hope, that he might have lived to an uncommon age; but the gout, and a paralytic diſorder, which attacked him a few years before his deceaſe, proved too hard for the ſtrength of his conſtitution,

and

and his regularity and skill; yet not 'till he had attained to his ſeventy-ſixth year, which might properly, in every ſenſe of the expreſſion, be called a good old age.

He was generally grave, but never melancholy; on the contrary, there appeared a conſtant chearfulneſs in his behaviour and manner, which was the reſult of calmneſs, ſerenity and goodneſs of mind.

In his temper there was a happy mixture of manlineſs and ſweetneſs, and of firmneſs and complacency; that theſe were natural to him was evident by his conduct in his family; for in mens families they generally act without conſtraint or diſguiſe, and are as much undreſſed, if I may ſo expreſs myſelf, in their behaviour, as in their perſons. In his

his family, his deportment was ſuch as gained him equal reverence and love. It was with great ſatisfaction that his relations and friends obſerved, with what care, and even affection, he was attended by his ſervants during his long illneſs.

His memory was remarkably good, and tho' principally employed on ſubjects of conſequence, yet even ſlighter matters did not eſcape it: one among many Inſtances of which was, that he remembered the uncouth names of moſt of the places he had travelled through, which were not a few, in Cornwall and Wales.

He underſtood the greek, latin, and french languages; was converſant in the claſſics, read them with great pleaſure,

pleaſure, retained in his memory many of their moſt beautiful paſſages, and when in company with his friends, who underſtood thoſe authors, he frequently quoted them.

ENGLISH he both ſpoke and wrote with correctneſs and elegance: he had, indeed, ſo habituated himſelf to ſpeak correctly, that in his common converſation he rarely treſpaſſed againſt the rules of grammar: but propriety of ſpeech was the leaſt beauty of his diſcourſe, it was only the ornamental dreſs of juſt ſentiments, and uncommon and fine obſervations, which, ſo ſpoken by him, were like apples of gold in pictures of ſilver.

HE read, or repeated by memory, latin and engliſh, both proſe and verſe, not only with a juſt pronunciation and

 emphaſis,

emphaſis, but with admirable grace. Tho' his memory, in the latter part of his life, ſometimes failed him, reſpecting what he had then lately read or heard, yet he ſo well retained what he had formerly read, that he frequently repeated conſiderable parts of poems, which he had taken a particular liking to, tho' he had not read ſome of them, as he told me himſelf, for more than thirty years.

He underſtood geography, and frequently amuſed himſelf with looking over maps, by which he became well acquainted with the ſituation, bounds and extent of moſt countries, and was not unacquainted with the cuſtoms and manners of many of them. He took great delight in travelling, and had been in every county of England, in Scotland,

land, in Wales (as I remember) five times; in Holland, Flanders, and moſt of the other provinces of the low-countries; in France, Swiſſerland and Savoy; and it was with no ſmall regret that he left Italy unſeen, eſpecially when ſo near it as in Savoy; but his time would not then permit, and afterwards the frequent attacks of the gout prevented his enjoying that pleaſure.

THO' he was ſomewhat reſerved to ſtrangers, yet not, perhaps, more than a prudent man ſhould be, he was very civil and courteous to all with whom he converſed, and a moſt agreeable companion to his intimate acquaintance at all times, but particularly ſo in travelling: the variety of objects, which then preſented themſelves, gave him great pleaſure: his obſervations on men and things

were very judicious and entertaining. I had the pleaſure of accompanying him in many journies in England, and in two abroad; in the laſt of which were only this gentleman and myſelf; indeed we wanted no other: he appeared ſatisfied with my company, I was delighted with his. As the incidents of theſe journies, particularly thoſe in foreign countries, and our obſervations in them, frequently furniſhed ſubjects for many agreeable converſations during the reſt of his life, ſo the perfect harmony and agreement, which conſtantly ſubſiſted between us in theſe journies, contributed to cement that friendſhip we had contracted ſome years before, and which never ſuffered the leaſt coldneſs or interruption afterwards. — A friendſhip I ſhall ever eſteem one of the happieſt incidents of my life, and one of the

the higheſt pleaſures I have enjoyed in it. He was ſo kind more than once to ſay, that he ſhould always think himſelf obliged to the gentleman who firſt brought us acquainted, and only wiſhed it had happened much earlier in our lives: in this obligation to that gentleman, and this kind and affectionate wiſh, I always thought I had reaſon to go many lengths beyond him.

If in this recital of my worthy friend's kindneſs, there ſhould be any tincture of vanity, it is ſuch a vanity as I can hardly wiſh to be cured of: thoſe who have enjoyed, or do enjoy ſo valuable a friendſhip, will be the firſt to pardon me.

One ſubject of converſation, too generally acceptable and pleaſing, he always

always ſhewed a diſlike to, and would never bear a part in: I mean ſcandal. Tho' he had, perhaps, as few failings as moſt men, yet he made great allowances for them in others, eſpecially if merely perſonal; and I frequently obſerved, that dwelling too much, in converſation, on ſuch faults, and eſpecially aggravating them, made him uneaſy. Inſtead of liking to hear of mens weakneſſes and miſconduct, he ſeemed never better pleaſed than when he was told of ſome good and worthy action performed, and would with great pleaſure expatiate in the commendation of a deſerving perſon. This humane and amiable diſpoſition remained in him to the laſt, and after his faculties were, by a paralytick diſorder, ſomewhat impaired, eſpecially at times, I have frequently obſerved, when an account of a generous or brave

action

action has been related or read to him, that he has ſhewn how it affected him, by ſhedding tears of approbation and joy. If this was a weakneſs, it was ſuch, as could be the weakneſs of a good man only.

But notwithſtanding this humane, benevolent and generous temper, which prevented his being ſevere upon ſmall frailties, yet he always ſhewed the utmoſt averſion to hypocrites and villains; and of theſe, he thought thoſe who were ſo to their country, the greateſt and moſt deteſtable. I have ſeldom heard him expreſs more ſharpneſs againſt any ſet of men, than pretended patriots, who having oppoſed meaſures, which they had demonſtrated to be deſtructive of the nation's intereſt, afterwards, when they got into power, eſpouſed and purſued

ſued the very ſame meaſures, and this evidently for the ſake of filthy lucre. And the more eminent ſuch perſons were for their parts and abilities, the more, he thought, they deſerved to be deſpiſed and deteſted. For he was of opinion, that poſſeſſing great talents, was ſo far from intitling men to reſpect, if they miſapplied them, that they thereby merited a double portion of contempt and infamy.

THE want of public ſpirit among us he frequently regretted, and thought that in this uſeful and laudable virtue, ſome of our neighbours much excelled us; and obſerved alſo, that too many of the great were ſo employed in accumulating wealth, in obtaining places, or preſerving them; in canvaſſing elections, or managing of P——ts, that the

the real buſineſs and good of the nation were ſcandalouſly neglected.

IN politics, he had no view but the good of the common-weal. Party men, he looked upon to be, generally, knaves, fools, or madmen. As he was much too wiſe and honeſt to have any connection with theſe, he was too warm a lover of his country to regard its intereſt with indifference.

HIS pleaſures were innocent and rational, ſuch as become a man of ſenſe and virtue. His integrity was unſpotted, his friendſhips warm and ſincere, his beneficence extenſive, his benevolence univerſal. Theſe and his other virtues, of which few men have poſſeſſed a larger ſhare, were natural to him, and conſtantly, uniformly, and ſteadily exerted.

THAT his care and tenderneſs for his friends could end only with his life, is evident: for ſome of his laſt words, a few hours before his deceaſe, and when ſo weak he could hardly be heard to ſpeak, were an inquiry after an abſent friend, and a meſſage ſent to him with proper and neceſſary cautions for his benefit.

SOME might, perhaps, think that his manner of living was not ſuitable to his large fortune: if according to common eſtimation, and the preſent faſhion of living, this was true, it proceeded not from avarice, but a diſlike to ſhow, the encumbrance of equipage, and the trouble and vexation of unneceſſary ſervants. His table was always ſerved with the beſt of proviſions; that and his houſe

were

were open to his friends, whom he entertained with kindneſs and affability, and tho' not profuſely yet elegantly: this, and his generoſity and charity ſo frequently exerted, may juſtly remove all ſuſpicion of his being too parſimonious.

He was an exact œconomiſt, and punctual to all his engagements and appointments: frequently obſerving, that by a neglect of œconomy men diſtreſſed themſelves, and by a diſregard to punctuality they diſtreſſed others; and takeing notice alſo, how much the non-obſervance of ſuch neceſſary duties depretiated the character of any perſon, what valuable qualities ſoever he might otherwiſe poſſeſs.

The reputation for wiſdom and probity he ſo juſtly acquired, cauſed many

perſons to apply to him for advice in difficult affairs: to theſe, he was a prudent and faithful counſellor. This reputation drew on him alſo the burden of divers executorſhips, and other truſts of that nature; ſome of them when he was ſo far advanced in years and ſo infirm, that they were not a little troubleſome to him: of theſe he always acquitted himſelf with the ſtricteſt juſtice and integrity.

THO' an enemy to all licentiouſneſs, he was a thorough friend to liberty both religious and civil. The many marks of ſlavery in both kinds, we ſo frequently met with in our travels through popiſh countries, gave him great uneaſineſs, and cauſed him often to reflect with pleaſure on the advantages of that liberty we enjoyed at home, which he earneſtly wiſhed

wiſhed we might long preſerve; but much feared that luxury and extravagance, and the natural conſequence of them, dependence, would ſoon deprive us of that invaluable benefit. He was alſo much affected at the many abſurd and ſhocking inſtances of ſuperſtition, we every where beheld in romiſh countries: he did not view theſe, as many do, only in a ridiculous light; he could not forbear looking ſeriouſly and with concern at them, as prejudicial to morality, deſtructive of true religion, and extremely diſgraceful to human nature; and tho' he much pitied the poor ignorant herd, who were led into theſe ſuperſtitious practices, yet he always expreſſed himſelf with deteſtation of thoſe who contrived ſuch cheats, to deceive, abuſe, and enſlave mankind.

His religion was much more practical than ſpeculative. As to ceremonies, he thought that all ſuch, which were not abſolutely neceſſary for decency, detracted from the ſimplicity and purity ſo eſſential to true religion; and inſtead of adorning, they diſguiſed and diſfigured it. Concerning myſteries he was not over ſollicitous: for he obſerved that moſt of thoſe who talked or wrote about them, talked or wrote without clear or diſtinct ideas, and therefore inſtead of explaining the ſubjects and proving their point, they only puzled their hearers or readers, and proved their own want of judgment, in medling with matters they did not underſtand, or of honeſty, in pretending to evince to others what they themſelves did not believe. Beſides, he thought that a Being infinitely

infinitely wiſe and good, could not require men to believe what he had not manifeſted to them, or adapted to their underſtandings; and much leſs could ſuch a Being make ſuch a belief neceſſary to their ſalvation: and to thoſe who pretend, that theſe myſteries are not againſt reaſon, tho' above our capacities; his anſwer was, *quod ſupra nos, nihil ad nos.* He alſo took notice with great concern, that diſputes about ceremonies and myſteries among thoſe called Chriſtians, had, to their eternal infamy, occaſioned, not only ſcandalous abuſes of one another, but the moſt cruel perſecutions, wars and maſſacres: men being commonly moſt poſitive and violent concerning things of little conſequence, or that they leaſt underſtand. Having obſerved theſe terrible effects proceeding from diſputes concerning

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religious ceremonies and myſteries, no wonder ſo peaceable and good a man choſe to meddle ſo little with them. His religion therefore principally conſiſted in doing juſtly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with GOD: this religion he ſtrictly and exemplarily practiſed. Certainly this is to be a good, and therefore a truly religious man: this is indeed to ſerve GOD; therefore ſuch men can have no juſt cauſe to fear the diſpleaſure of their Maker; but on the contrary to hope, that if GOD has laid up happineſs hereafter in ſtore for the righteous, they ſhall be made partakers of it. And as he lived the life of a righteous man, ſo was his latter end agreeable thereto, calm, peaceful and reſigned.

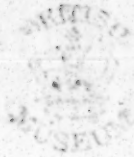
IN him uncommon merit, as indeed it uſually is, was accompanied with uncommon

uncommon modeſty. Tho' his excellent capacity, improved by learning, reflection and experience, gave him the advantage of moſt with whom he converſed, yet he had an eaſy agreeable manner of condeſcending to the capacities of his inferiors; and tho' his ſuperior knowledge well intitled him to adviſe and inſtruct, he was nevertheleſs always ready, nay pleaſed to receive information: and when he thought any perſons, with whom he converſed, in the wrong, he endeavoured to convince them rather by asking ſome proper leading queſtions, in the ſocratic manner, than by directly oppoſing or dictating.

THERE was in this worthy man, ſomewhat ſo remarkably good and venerable, that as has been obſerved of Scipio and Lælius, and ſome other great

perſonages among the ancients, none but an abandoned profligate, could act an ill or indecent thing in his preſence. In order to form a juſt opinion of this excellent man, let his acquaintance, who knew him beſt, examine themſelves, whether they have ever known many perſons whom they would rather chuſe to have been like than him. As to myſelf, I declare I have hardly known one. Reader, then (and writer too) do thou imitate him.

To ſum up his character, without the leaſt mixture of flattery to his memory, it may juſtly be ſaid, That his manly, ſagacious and benevolent aſpect, was a true index of that ſteadineſs, wiſdom and beneficence that appeared in all his conduct, who tho' but a private perſon, poſſeſſed ſuch virtues and abilities as might

might worthily have adorned a public ſtation. Few men better knew the true intereſt of his country, none more ſincerely and warmly wiſhed its proſperity. He was, indeed, an inſtructive and amiable companion, a ſincere and valuable friend, an affectionate relation, an excellent citizen, and a friend to mankind.

F I N I S.